

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-10. (Cancelled)

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A vehicle seat ~~having an upright seating position and an angled back rest position, and~~ having a headrest connected to the vehicle seat by rods, ~~which~~ wherein:

the headrest has a center pad and two side pads adjoining the center pad to right and left; [[,]]

the side pads ~~being~~ are pivotable about a swivel axis, from a swiveled-back supporting position into a swiveled-forward resting position; and ~~, wherein~~

the center pad has a variable pad hardness which varies with a ~~firmer pad hardness in the supporting position than in the resting~~ angular position of the side pads.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 11, wherein the side pads cooperate with the center pad to vary the pad hardness as they are swiveled.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 11, wherein the angle of the headrest relative to the backrest is adjustable about a transverse-running swivel axis disposed in its upper region facing away from the vehicle seat.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle as claimed in claim 12, wherein the angle of the headrest relative to the backrest is adjustable about a transverse-running swivel axis disposed in its upper region facing away from the vehicle seat.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 11, wherein the headrest has a carrier plate bearing the center pad and the side pads.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 12, wherein the headrest has a carrier plate bearing the center pad and the side pads.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle as claimed in claim 13, wherein the headrest has a carrier plate bearing the center pad and the side pads.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle as claimed in claim 14, wherein the headrest has a carrier plate bearing the center pad and the side pads.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 15, wherein the carrier plate at its end facing away from the backrest is pivotably connected to the rods by a bearing and is configured such that it can be swiveled about this bearing in order to adjust the headrest angle.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the center pad has a pad core and a pad cover, the pad cover being fastened in two cover mountings disposed on both sides of the center pad and directly adjoining the pad core.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 14, wherein the center pad has a pad core and a pad cover, the pad cover being fastened in two cover mountings disposed on both sides of the center pad and directly adjoining the pad core.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 15, wherein the center pad has a pad core and a pad cover, the pad cover being fastened in two cover mountings disposed on both sides of the center pad and directly adjoining the pad core.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 19, wherein the center pad has a pad core and a pad cover, the pad cover being fastened in two cover mountings disposed on both sides of the center pad and directly adjoining the pad core.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 20, wherein the tension of the pad cover varies the pad hardness of the center pad since the tightened pad cover hardens the surface of the center pad and the slackened pad cover softens the surface of the center pad.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 21, wherein the tension of the pad cover varies the pad hardness of the center pad since the tightened pad cover hardens the surface of the center pad and the slackened pad cover softens the surface of the center pad.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 22, wherein the tension of the pad cover varies the pad hardness of the

center pad since the tightened pad cover hardens the surface of the center pad and the slackened pad cover softens the surface of the center pad.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 23, wherein the tension of the pad cover varies the pad hardness of the center pad since the tightened pad cover hardens the surface of the center pad and the slackened pad cover softens the surface of the center pad.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 24, wherein the side pads as they are swiveled forward, reduce the tension of the pad cover since the side pads press the cover mountings toward the center of the center pad.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 25, wherein the side pads as they are swiveled forward, reduce the tension of the pad cover since the side pads press the cover mountings toward the center of the center pad.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 26, wherein the side pads as they are swiveled forward, reduce the tension of the pad cover since the side pads press the cover mountings toward the center of the center pad.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 27, wherein the side pads as they are swiveled forward, reduce the tension of the pad cover since the side pads press the cover mountings toward the center of the center pad.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 20, wherein the cover mountings are configured as U-shaped clamp rails, the clamp rails being respectively rotatable about a rotation axis disposed approximately parallel to the carrier plate and running along the outer contour of the center pad.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 24, wherein the cover mountings are configured as U-shaped clamp rails, the clamp rails being respectively rotatable about a rotation axis disposed approximately parallel to the carrier plate and running along the outer contour of the center pad.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 25, wherein the cover mountings are configured as U-shaped clamp rails, the clamp rails being respectively rotatable about a rotation axis disposed approximately parallel to the carrier plate and running along the outer contour of the center pad.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 26, wherein the cover mountings are configured as U-shaped clamp rails, the clamp rails being respectively rotatable about a rotation axis disposed approximately parallel to the carrier plate and running along the outer contour of the center pad.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 27, wherein the cover mountings are configured as U-shaped clamp rails, the clamp rails being respectively rotatable about a rotation axis disposed approximately parallel to the carrier plate and running along the outer contour of the center pad.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 28, wherein the cover mountings are configured as U-shaped clamp rails, the clamp rails being respectively rotatable about a rotation axis disposed approximately parallel to the carrier plate and running along the outer contour of the center pad.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 32, wherein the side pads have a swivel axis disposed to run through the rotation axis of the cover mountings.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 33, wherein the side pads have a swivel axis disposed to run through the rotation axis of the cover mountings.

Claim 40. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 34, wherein the side pads have a swivel axis disposed to run through the rotation axis of the cover mountings.

Claim 41. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 35, wherein the side pads have a swivel axis disposed to run through the rotation axis of the cover mountings.

Claim 42. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle as claimed in claim 36, wherein the side pads have a swivel axis disposed to run through the rotation axis of the cover mountings.

Claim 43. (Previously Presented)      The vehicle as claimed in claim 37, wherein the side pads have a swivel axis disposed to run through the rotation axis of the cover mountings.

Claim 44. (Currently Amended)      A vehicle seat assembly, including a headrest comprising:

a center pad, and



side pads adjoining the center pad at opposite lateral sides thereof, said side pads being ~~movable~~ pivotal about a swivel axis between a swiveled-back head support position and a swiveled-forward head rest position,

wherein said center pad and side pads are configured to vary the hardness of the center pad as a function of ~~[[the]]~~ angular position of the side pads.

Claim 45. (Previously Presented)      An assembly according to claim 44, wherein said center pad and side pads are configured to increase the hardness of the center pad when the side pads are moved from the rest position to the support position.

Claim 46. (Previously Presented)      As assembly according to claim 45, wherein the hardness of the center pad is controlled by varying tension on a center pad cover which is operably connected with the side pads.